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28 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Training Liaison Officers (for distribution)

SUBJECT: Nominations for Armed Forces Staff CollegeREFERENCES: (1) CIA Regulation No. [redacted]
(2) CIA Notice [redacted] dated 9 March 1954

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1. Individuals who meet the basic requirements, outlined below, are invited to apply for the following course:

ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE
Norfolk, Virginia
22 Aug. 1955 to 19 Jan. 1956

2. Applicants should be fully qualified to make a substantial contribution to the school based on authoritative experience with the mission and functions of CIA. Since the Agency is regularly assigned a quota for this College, the individual selected will attend, in effect, as an Agency representative.

3. Basic qualifications required are:

- a. Grade GS-11 or above, or commensurate position.
- b. Age 30-45, inclusive.
- c. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.
- d. Top Secret clearance.
- e. Reserve officer status, desirable but not obligatory.

4. Individual applications must be submitted on Form 51-133 by 15 May 1955. They should include description of present position, chronological summary of education and employment (both civilian and military), together with any pertinent information concerning projected assignments or career plans which will assist the Selection Board and Career Council. The approval or disapproval of Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors or Staff Chiefs, and of Career Service Boards, should be indicated in accordance with CIA Notice [redacted]

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5. Applicants for previous courses who were not selected are invited to resubmit applications.

6. A brief summary of this course is attached for information. The course program and schedule may be consulted in the office of the Language and External Training School, 2129 Eye Building, [redacted]

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Document No. 12
No Change in Class. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified
Class. Changed to: TS S C
Next Review Date: [redacted]
Auth.: HR 70-3
Date: 12-27-78 By: [redacted]

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

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ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE

Course Description

The mission of the Armed Forces Staff College is to train in joint operations selected officers of the Armed Forces with 12-18 years of service. The program provides for 630 hours of lectures, conferences, seminars, demonstrations and visits, including the following areas of study:

1. Characteristics, organization and employment of Army, Navy and Air Forces and the relationship of these forces to each other.
2. The organization, composition and functions of a theater of operations and of major task forces, and the responsibilities (strategical, tactical and logistical) of their commanders.
3. Joint Staff techniques and procedures.
4. The preparation of plans for amphibious and airborne operations involving the employment of joint forces.
5. Scientific developments and trends of new weapons and their effect upon joint operations.

The following sentences are quoted from the reports of the CIA representatives at recent sessions of the course. Each class is composed of 250 students and faculty members of the three services, as well as several Government departments and a few delegates from NATO countries. These officers have been specially selected and the Staff College is often one of the final steps in the grooming process for general officer billets... Their increased awareness of the role of CIA in the protection of this nation and in support of the military services...can pay big dividends to CIA through increased respect, cooperation, and coordination in the future. It is most important for the student to have a military background; if at all possible to have held down a staff planning job sometime during his military career. The fields of intelligence, operations, and logistics are stressed at the Staff College so that an Army student having one of these three capabilities will not have too much trouble reading himself into the picture... the major emphasis is placed on advanced operational planning techniques of combined and joint overseas theater staffs and joint task force planning one level below the theater commander's staff... The system of instruction generally falls into lectures half a day and seminars for the other half. Seminars consist of approximately fourteen officers, some from each service. These groups are organized into Joint Staffs and each officer receives an opportunity to apply the theoretical instruction in various staff roles.

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